UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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GENERAL PLAN DEVELOPED FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OF YELLOWTAIL RESERVOIR, WYOMING

The signing of a general plan which will permit the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to develop and manage wildlife habitat on 14,410 acres of land and water at the Bureau of Reclamation's Yellowtail Reservoir was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The wildlife management project was proposed by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The plan was accepted by Wyoming through James B. White of the state Game and Fish Commission.

The lands are at the upper part of Yellowtail Reservoir in Wyoming. Yellowtail Dam, on the Bighorn River near Hardin, Mont., backs water for 71 miles, extending into Wyoming. Most of the reservoir is narrowly confined by the walls of a spectacular canyon through the Bighorn Mountains, but the upper end spreads into a relatively flat area which has substantial potential for management as migratory waterfowl habitat.

Wyoming's wildlife agency will manage wildlife habitat on 11,600 acres of lands in the newly established Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. The National Park Service provides overall administration for the development and management of this portion of the wildlife habitat area for public recreation. The state will administer an additional 2,810 acres of Bureau of Reclamation lands lying outside the National Recreation Area. The 2,810 acres were obtained specifically for fish and wildlife purposes on the recommendation of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Development and management of wildlife habitat on the 14,410-acre area will help offset losses of habitat resulting from reservoir construction and provide some enhancement of wildlife resources. Management will be primarily for migratory waterfowl, but resident wildlife also will benefit.

Public hunting will be permitted.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has been carrying out preliminary management activity on the area under a temporary use permit from the National Park Service and a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Final working arrangements are to be spelled out in cooperative agreements by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, respectively, with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.